

Address To The Country!

Framed at the Race Congress held at
Washington, D. C., on

October 5, 1916

The Louisville Courier

10/21/16

On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Proclamation of Emancipation abolishing slavery in this country.

The States of the Union where the institution existed, in time followed the great proclamation by the enactment of statutes annulling it within their several borders; and the National Government by the enactment of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution finally put the power into Federal agencies to prevent its recurrence on American soil. For many years after the close of the Civil War peonage was practiced in the South, which has never become thoroughly reconciled to the laws prescribing equality of citizenship.

Works of the South.

This fact is seen in the widespread efforts to defeat the great purposes of the War Amendment, by the enactment of laws making the disfranchisement of the race a practical reality; by provisions for the separation of Colored passengers from all otherland, racial elements on common carriers, by proscriptive legislation for residential segregation. The lynching of thousands of Colored men and even women charged with offenses never proven in the courts of justice has become almost a national disease. These social disorders are the aftermath of slavery, and we appeal to all fair-minded men and women, to the enlightened moral forces of the country, to unite in a nation-wide effort to correct these abuses to the end that justice may prevail in all sections of our Republic.

Worth and Capacity of Colored Americans.

The great progress of the Colored race since the day of their liberation from bondage has been made in the face of stupendous difficulties, in the face of hate and prejudice, proscription and injustice, and is all the more remarkable because of the powerful influence exerted by these evil agencies. The race has greatly multiplied in numbers, and in usefulness. It has reduced its illiteracy to a very low percentage. It has multiplied its wealth in lands. In religious, educational and industrial movements, it has become an important factor in the national life with ever-increasing efficiency. Wherever the door of opportunity has been opened to them, Colored Americans have demonstrated their ability to meet the most exacting requirements of civilization.

The Colored people have made valuable contributions to Science, Invention, Art and Literature, and their achievements in our national wars have maintained at a high level the best military traditions of this nation.

We desire to express to the friends of liberty and justice for all men throughout this broad land, our grateful appreciation for every service of any character which they have rendered in the past.

WE SEEK NOTHING BUT JUSTICE, AND THAT EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND THAT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY WHICH ARE DENIED TO NONE OF THE OTHER GROUPS IN THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE OF RACE.

Against Reactionary Movement.

We denounce the segregation of Colored employes in the Civil

Service of the Federal Government as un-American, unjust, a wicked, shameful and disgraceful abuse of power.

We denounce the spirit of those so-called representatives of the people in the halls of Congress, who are constantly seeking to decitizenize the Colored race by the introduction of reactionary legislation which belongs to a past age, and which the great body of the American people have outgrown.

Racial Organization, Opposing Segregation.

WE CALL UPON THE LEADERS OF OUR RACE IN EVERY SECTION OF OUR COUNTRY TO UNSELFISHLY GUIDE THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES BY WHICH THEY ARE BESET, AND TO ORGANIZE THEM LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY TO RESIST AND COMBAT DENIAL OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ESPECIALLY THE POLICY OF SEPARATION FROM FELLOW AMERICANS OF EVERY RACE IN THE PUBLIC LIFE, OPPOSING SEGREGATION, THE PERPETRATOR OF RACE PREJUDICE.

THOSE WHO HAVE WISDOM, LET THEIR COUNSEL BE HEARD. THOSE WHO HAVE WEALTH, LET THEM ASSIST MATERIALLY WHERE THE NEED IS GREAT. THOSE WHO HAVE COURAGE, LET THEM STAND AND CONTEND FOR JUSTICE.

This address was the work of fifteen prominent race men, of whom Rev. J. E. Wood, of Danville, was the Kentucky member. OFFICERS ELECTED AT NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE HELD AT WASHINGTON, D. C., OCT. 6, 1916.

The Guardian 10/14/16
President, Byron Gunner, D. D., New York; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Reverdy C. Ransom, N. J., Wm. D. Brigham, Mass., Rev. Harvey Johnson, D. D., Mary-land, Rev. C. H. Steptean, D. D., D. C., Rev. Marion F. Sydes, D. D., R. I., Rev. W. Spencer Carter, Penn., Rev. John Barnett, Va., Mrs. S. L. Adams, Illinois, Bishop I. N. Ross, Rev. W. C. Brown, D. C.; Recording Secretary, James L. Neill, D. C.; Assistant Recording Secretary, Wm. Warley, Ky.; Cor. Secretary, W. Monroe Trotter, Mass.; Assistant Cor. Secretary, Maurice W. Spencer, Del.; Treasurer, Thomas Walker, D. C.; Fin. Secretary, Dr. W. A. Sinclair, Penn.; Assistant Fin. Secretary, A. Fitzholan Wallace, D. C.; Chaplain, Rev. Oscar E. Denniston, Mass.; National Organizer, Rev. James E. Churchman, N. J.; Assistant National Organizer, Rev. Arthur Randall, Md.

Executive Committee—Chairman, Maurice W. Spencer, Del., Rev. H. Y. Arnett, Penn., Rev. A. Fitzholan Wallace, D. C., F. Morris Murray, Va., W. P. Dabney, Ohio, E. M. Hewlett, D. C., E. T. Morris, Mass., H. E. Young, Md., J. Q. Adams, Minn., Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, Ill., Rev. Walter E. Gay, Conn., Rev. C. L. Miller, R. I., Chas. Pitman, Mo., Mrs. Emma B. Brown, Ind., I. F. Bradley, Kan., Rev. J. L. Davis, N. H., Dr. O. M. Waller, N. Y., Dr. W. A. Sinclair, Penn., Al. A. Andrews, Ky., G. G. Ross, Colo., J. S. Lowe, Ark., E. D. Cannady, Ore., Prof. Hill, Tenn., Hon. I. B. Allen, N. Y., with power to augment Committee on nomination of officers: Rev. Oscar E. Denniston, chair; Rev. A. Fitzholan Wallace, Secretary; Rev. John Barnett, James L. Neill, Maurice Spencer, E. T. Morris.

Savannah Tribune
Race Segregation
10-4-16
Strongly Denounced

BY NINTH SESSION OF EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE

Many Prominent Men and Women Attended Meeting

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7—Coming from all sections of the country, even from California, colored men and women assembled at the seat of Con-

states were present and a spirit of getting together prevailed.

The Congress, which before it adjourned endorsed the principles of the Equal Rights League was opened by Pres. Gunner of the league. Pastor Brown offered invocation. Secretary Trotter read the call. Judge E. M. Hewlett gave the address of welcome, followed by responses by J. H. Murphy, editor of the Baltimore Afro-American, Mrs. R. Goggins, of Michigan; J. P. Peaker of Connecticut and others.

Rev. Harvey Johnson of Baltimore was elected temporary chairman. F. Morris Murray, of Virginia, secretary and Thomas Walker of District of Columbia, treasurer. Committees were appointed, M. W. Spencer of Delaware, being made chairman on program, Editor Murphy on press, E. T. Morris of Massachusetts on credentials, at Wednesday night's mass meeting addresses were made by Wm. Monroe Trotter, presiding, R. B. Gunner, New York, Thos. Walker, District of Columbia, president of local branch and Rev. W. C. Brown, the pastor, welcome addresses, Rev. E. P. Sydes, Rhode Island, and Rev. P. O'Connell, responses; invocation by Rev. E. P. Dixon a Massachusetts; music by the glee club of the Dunbar high school.

On Thursday the Congress went into permanent organization with Rev. M. F. Sydes, president; Rev. C. H. Steptean, D. C., vice president; T. Walker, D. C., treasurer; J. E. Churchman, New Jersey, recording secretary; Wm. Warley, Kentucky, corresponding secretary; Elbert W. Powell, California; sergeant at arms; Rev. R. S. Johnson, Virginia, chaplain.

The Congress recommended to the Equal Rights League consideration of further getting-together of race organizations and endorsed the principles of the league. It also adopted a ringing address to the country framed by M. W. Spencer. This address declared the South was annulling the War Amendments by Jim-Crow cars, residential segregation, and disfranchisement laws and lynching of colored persons, even women. It denounced the Wilson federal segregation, and the color-line laws introduced into Congress, and called for racial organizations for the defense of rights and privileges in the following clause:

We call upon the leaders of our race to unselfishly guide the people and to organize them locally and na-

gress in the 50th year since Congress voted in favor of the 14th amendment conferring citizenship upon colored Americans in a National Citizenship Rights Congress Wednesday and Thursday in the beautiful John Wesley A. M. E. Zion church, Rev. W. C. Brown, pastor, the convention concluding on Friday with the 9th Annual Meeting of the National Equal Rights League, which called the Congress.

The meeting was unique in the last decade in that leaders who were in opposition 10 years ago got together for equal rights. 130 delegates from 21

tionally to resist and combat denial of civil and political rights and especially the policy of separation from fellow Americans of every race in the public life, opposing segregation, the perpetuation of race prejudice.

It was signed by M. W. Spencer, Delaware; Rev. J. H. Eason, Pennsylvania; Rev. J. E. Wood, Kentucky; W. M. Trotter, Massachusetts; J. H. Murphy, Maryland; Rev. R. C. Ransom, New Jersey; Rev. W. S. Gray, Connecticut; Mrs. Robert Goggins, Michigan; E. W. Powell, California; Mrs. S. L. Adams, Illinois; Rev. M. F. Sydes, Rhode Island; E. D. Williston, North Carolina; Rev. B. Gunner, New York.

The speakers on Thursday night were Rev. C. H. Steptean, District of Columbia, presiding, Prof. Kelly Miller, District of Columbia; Rev. R. C. Ransom, New Jersey, the semi-centennial orator who advised a non-partisan Negro Party, William D. Brigham, of Boston, Massachusetts, a modern day abolitionist; Mr. W. Spencer who read the address to the country. Music was by the Amphion Glee Club, Prof. Layton, leader.

The Congress merged into the 9th annual meeting of the National Equal Rights League on Friday with Rev. Byron Gunner in the chair, the morning session was opened with prayer by Bishop G. L. Blackwell of Pennsylvania; 131 delegates were enrolled from 26 states. Rev. J. E. Churchman was made recording secretary pro tem and J. L. Neill, D. C., with S. T. Morris, Massachusetts and Mrs. R. Goggins, Michigan, were credentials committee. Bishop Alex. Walters enrolled. Committees were appointed on Declaration of Principles, Dr. W. A. Sinclair, Pennsylvania, chairman; on racial organization through the league, J. E. Churchman, New Jersey; on segregation, Wm. Warley, Kentucky, chairman; on disfranchisement, Rev. A. C. Randall, Maryland, chairman; on lynching, Mrs. T. B. W. Barnett, Illinois, chairman; on nomination of officers, Rev. O. E. Denniston, Massachusetts, chairman; on industrial movements, Rev. W. S. Gay, Connecticut, chairman. After remarks by Maj. W. J. Furlong, Massachusetts, Mrs. Mary James, Massachusetts, and Levine J. Spencer, Delaware, adjourn-

ment was had till afternoon.

In the afternoon these committees brought in strong reports which were adopted.

Reduction of representation in Congress, a law by Congress making lynching a federal crime, a committee to wait upon Congress, drastic opposition to all sorts of race segregation in institutions as well as in public carries and domiciles and organizations of the race by colored leaders were among the measures favored.

A strong address to the country was adopted scoring Wilson for his race segregation and favoring Hughes as the means by which to put Wilson out. The address contained the following: Owing to the alarming spread of Jim-Crowism we declare an opposition to the whole policy of race segregation in public and semi-public institutions, in places open to the public as undemocratic and un-American, a denial of equality of rights and destined to make us social and civil outcasts.

The night mass meeting was like the others, honored by a very large audience. M. W. Spencer opened. Prayer was by Rev. O. E. Denniston of Massachusetts. Addresses were by Rev. B. Gunner, presiding officer, Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Bishop I. N. Ross, J. P. Peaker, Connecticut; Prof. Allen W. Whaley, Massachusetts and Wm. Monroe Trotter, Massachusetts. The music was by Miss Lillian Evans, soprano. A reception to the delegates closed a most successful three days' convention.

These officers were elected: President, Byron Gunner, D. D., New York; vice presidents, Rev. Reverdy, Ransom, N. J.; Wm. D. Brigham, Massachusetts; Rev. C. H. Steptean, D. C.; Rev. Marion F. Sydes, D. D., Rhode Island; Rev. W. Spencer Carpenter, Pennsylvania; Mrs. S. L. Adams, Illinois; Rev. John Barnett, Virginia; Bishop J. N. Ross, Rev. W. C. Brown, D. C.; recording secretary, James L. Neill, D. C.; assistant recording secretary, Wm. Warley, Kentucky; corresponding secretary, W. Monroe Trotter, Massachusetts; assistant corresponding secretary, Maurice W. Spencer, Delaware; treasurer, Thomas Walker, D. C.; financial secretary, Dr. W. A. Sinclair, Pennsylvania; assistant financial secretary, A. Fitzhollan Wallace, D. C.; chaplain, Rev. Oscar F. Denniston, Massachusetts; national

organizer, Rev. James E. Churchman, New Jersey; assistant national organizer, Rev. Arthur Randall, Maryland, and an executive committee, M. W. Spencer, chairman.

Race Segregation Not To Be Disturbed 1872/1/16 REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DECLARATION AND MEASURES NATIONAL EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE

The National Equal Rights League appeals to the voters of the United States, to sustain in each and every state of our country, the principles of equality of citizenship, equality of opportunity in Federal Civil Service employment, equality of protection in the administration of justice, equality of freedom in the use of the ballot and equality and fair play in industrial pursuits. Equality of human rights in this country should not be destroyed by the continued enforcement of unreasonable human tyranny at the South. Work in the Civil Service should be equally open to all without the application of methods that result in race discrimination, race segregation and race humiliation in work or wages to any citizens. We warn the voters of the country against the power of the labor unions which have grown both formidable and dangerous within the last few years. For more than thirty years these organizations have done what they could to starve all persons not members of the labor unions and also excluded colored laborers therefrom.

A vote for Mr. Wilson means a vote for the destruction of equality of citizenship in the North, East and West as well as in the South, such a vote means a complete choking of equal opportunity in life's struggles, it means the establishment of a rigid caste system directly adverse to ten million and applied to industrial pursuits and operated so as to exclude and prevent the class under the band of Southern race prejudice from participating in gainful occupations. It means an endorsement of Mr. Wilson's propaganda of race segregation and race humiliation in the executive department of the government.

Our government is founded upon

the principles of equal freedom and exact justice to all men, but Mr. Wilson has shown his opposition to equal freedom and exact justice to ten million by giving a delegation from the National Equal Rights League to understand that the race segregation in work and wages, race humiliation and race insults in the executive department of the government inaugurated by his subordinates, would not be disturbed.

Mr. Hughes, while Governor of the state of New York, made a good record; we believe he will make a good president and would be president of all the people of the United States including the ten million seemingly set apart by Mr. Wilson for disfavor and for denial of civil and political rights. We therefore urge the voters of the United States to vote for Mr. Hughes as the most effective means of defeating Mr. Wilson and of registering a protest against a Southern, sectional administration of the government of the United States. We favor Federal supervision of the election of President, Vice-president, Senators and members of the House of Representatives.

Owing to the alarming extension of color caste reaching even the right of domicile and invading the Federal government, we, as Americans, declare our opposition to the whole policy of race separation, for color in public semi-public institutions whether for education, recreation, or what not, in places open to the public for accommodation or resort as undemocratic and un-American, increasing and perpetuating race prejudice and constituting essentially a denial of equality of rights and destined to make us, as American, social and civic outcast.

Signed: Wm. Sudan, Chairman, Penn. Joseph H. Stewart, D. C.; R. Ransom, N. J.; Thomas Walker, D. C.; Isaac Ballen, N. Y.; Rev. J. E. Mann, Ky.; Emery Morris, Mass.

AMERICAN NEGRO ACADEMY.
Journalists Guide 12-2-16
Institution to Observe Hundredth Anniversary of Frederick Douglass.

Washington.—The American Negro academy and other organizations in and near this city will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Frederick Douglass with appropriate exercises, beginning Tuesday, Dec. 26, for three days. Papers and addresses will be read and delivered by noted essayists and speakers

dealing with various phases of the interesting career of this greatest of Negro leaders and prince of orators.

The American Negro academy is making extensive preparations for this event, and an unusually attractive program will be presented during the sessions of this famous organization. During the Christmas holidays there are usually a great many strangers visitors in Washington, and an opportunity will thus be presented to them to hear and see some of the race celebrities who will take part in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the great and only Douglass of the leonine face and shaggy mane. Secretary John W. Cromwell of the academy is sparing no effort to make this the most notable and memorable gathering in the history of the academy.

TRAVELER & EVE. HERALD

Boston, Mass.

WILL REINTRODUCE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

The eight Boston delegates to the national colored citizenship congress, held at Washington last week, and ninth annual meeting of the National Equal Rights League which called the congress, on their return home today reported the three days' convention to have been a splendid success.

The congress appealed to the patriotic North to save the war amendments and oppose the South's Jim-Crow and residential segregation laws and the lynching of colored persons, even women, also condemning the segregation of colored government clerks.

The congress advocated racial organization against color proscription. William D. Brigham, Mrs. M. C. Simpson, Maj. W. J. Furlong, Mrs. Mary James, and W. M. Trotter of the Boston delegates were speakers. On the second day the congress endorsed the principles of the Equal Rights League. A committee of three was named to have the Moody anti-lynching bill reintroduced into congress.

On Friday the National Equal Rights League held its ninth annual meeting, committee reports were adopted favoring congressional representation based on the voting registration, federal supervision of federal elections, a congressional law making lynching a federal crime, opposing the re-election of President Wilson because of his endorsement of race prejudice, his segregation of government employes and his elimination of colored holders of important positions, advocating the election of Mr. Hughes as the most effective means by which to oust Wilson.

The Rev. Byron Gunner was elected president, W. M. Trotter, corresponding secretary, O. E. Denniston of Oak Bluffs, chaplain.

National Organization - 1916

National Equal Rights

The Chicago Defender 10/14/16 Congress Comes to End

BY IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT

(Only representative from Illinois)

Washington, D. C., Oct. 13. — Coming from all sections of the country, even from California, men and women assembled at the seat of congress in the fiftieth year since congress voted in favor of the fourteenth amendment conferring citizenship upon Americans in a National Citizenship Rights Congress Wednesday and Thursday in the beautiful John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, Rev. W. C. Brown, pastor, the convention concluding on Friday with the ninth annual meeting of the National Equal Rights League, which called the congress.

The meeting was unique in the last decade, in that leaders who were in opposition 10 years ago got together for equal rights. One hundred and thirty delegates from 21 states were present and a spirit of getting together prevailed.

The National Equal Rights League has concluded its sessions and adjourned to meet a year hence. This is the organization which, four years ago, indorsed President Wilson's candidacy and urged our people throughout the country to do the same. These leaders had become incensed at the treatment of the Race by a Republican President and the Republican party, had held a splendid reception by Candidate Wilson and an earnest assurance that he would treat the Negro as a man and citizen. The organization almost went to smash because of this radical step of indorsement of Wilson and divided forces, but the majority, led by Bishop Walters and William Monroe Trotter, worked, lectured on the stump and through the columns of the Guardian and caused thousands of Negroes to vote the Democratic ticket, who had never done so before, and thus helped land Wilson in the White House.

Remembering Grover Cleveland's honest and fair administrations people everywhere looked for an improvement on the great Democrat's rule so far as we were concerned. Every 10-year-old child throughout the country knows the result, for segregation as encouraged and practical in Uncle Sam's workshops here in Washington, has been given a new meaning and impetus under President Wilson, and members of the Race have been snubbed, degraded and humiliated during this administration as never before since freedom.

Two visits of protest, led by the officers of the National Equal Rights Association, which held itself responsible to the Race, were made to President Wilson, one in 1913, eight months after he assumed office, at which time the writer was one of the number.

The President then told us he was not aware of the segregation orders. We gave him a fac simile copy of one of the orders by one of his chiefs, and he kept it, saying he would look into it. We left him a monster protest from all over the country, signed by 10,000 per-

sons, who did not know about segregated lunch rooms, toilet rooms and rest rooms in the departments, even if the chief magistrate did not.

After waiting a whole year, with no change for the better, with things growing steadily worse in the way of discharges, and demotions, in spite of civil service, the committee, led by the intrepid William Monroe Trotter, went back to see President Wilson again in 1914, when he attempted to defend segregation. And when Mr. Trotter showed the inconsistency of his position, he lost his temper, and the country was informed that the President had been insulted by Trotter! Since that time and up to the present, every member of the Race holding public office in government service, has been deposed and white men appointed to their places, thus showing President Wilson's idea of justice, administered with "liberality and good feeling" to a Race already weighed down with prejudice from every other source.

The National Equal Rights League called its annual meeting in this campaign year in Washington City, just outside the White House, and asked the Race everywhere to send delegates. The response in person was from as far west as Michigan and Illinois; by proxy from the other ocean.

After preliminaries, fine addresses, plans for local organization, reports from committees and election of officers, the real battle came over adoption of report of state and country. The report reviewed racial history of the past four years, and urged on our people to unite in support of Charles E. Hughes in the coming election. Judge Thomas E. Walker, a highly respected lawyer and citizen of the District of Columbia, opposed the adoption of this recommendation, as did another prominent lawyer, W. Ashbie Hawkins of Baltimore and others. Their grounds were that political recommendation had well nigh broken up the organization four years ago; that the Colored people were going to vote for Hughes anyway, and that no one knew Mr. Hughes' attitude toward us, and because it would seem to make of this a political organization, and they thought it enough to condemn President Wilson's policy against us.

Seeing that the convention seemed evenly divided on the subject, your correspondent took the floor for the first time and showed the delegates it was a sacred duty we owed our people to urge them to use their political strength

against the man whose segregation policy we were denouncing; that the only effective way to make our protest felt was to do the only thing we could do to defeat the man who had injured us more than any President in the history of our freedom; indorse the man who had best chance of defeating him, and publish that indorsement from the houstop, in every Race paper, from every pulpit and in every club; to organize clubs to do every possible thing to defeat the man

who had so insulted us and jeopardized our liberty and our economic welfare. I tried to show them that we must so mass our political strength and so wield it in our own defense at all times and in all places, that no President again would ever dare to offer us such insults as we had suffered the past four years, and thus teach them to fear our vote as they now do the labor vote. When the final vote was taken for adoption of the report the indorsement won overwhelmingly, and I was very proud to have Judge Walker, who had fought the indorsement in committee and on the floor, tell me that I had convinced him it was the thing to do, and that if I had not come from Chicago he felt sure the report would not have been adopted.

Enjoyable Evening Spent by the Postmen and Their Guests.
Savannah Tribune
By far one of the most elaborate and thoroly enjoyed banquet given recently in the city by any local organization, was the one which was given on last Saturday night, Jan 8, by the local letter carriers' association, a branch of the National Letter Carriers Association. The affair was held at the cozy home of Mr. Andrew Monroe of 33rd street, east, one of the local postmen.

Prior to the banquet, the installation of officers for the ensuing year took place. Headed by Mr. Joseph H. Green as president-elect the officers were installed in a fitting manner by Mr. I. M. Jackson. Following the installation of officers, the members of the association and their guests repaired to the dining room where covers were laid for two score or more persons. During the repast which was sumptuous to say the least, and which was served in courses, Mr. I. M. Jackson acted as toastmaster and in a happy way introduced the various speakers of the occasion. Among the members who responded to toasts were Retiring President M. B. Branham, President-elect Jos. H. Green, Messrs. Jos. Dowse, J. M. Ferreebee, T. L. Riley, L. M. Pollard and others. Among the guests who spoke were Pres. L. E. Williams of the Wage Earners bank, Mr. Earl Ashton of the Royal Undertaking Establishment and Dr. C. B. Tyson. The principal address was delivered by Prof. S. A. Grant of the Ga. State College. Too much praise cannot be given Chirman Jos. F. Ford and the members of his committee on arrangements for the completeness which characterized every phase of the evening's entertainment. Among the special features of entertainment were the very fun-

ny slants of Messrs. Ford and Riley and the introduction by Mr. Jas. Monroe of an original song dedicated to the postmen of the Savannah office.

ADDRESS TO THE COUNTRY OF THE NATIONAL COLORED CITIZENSHIP CONGRESS

Read by Mr. W. S. Spencer, Oct. 5, in John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church Washington, D. C.

The Savannah Tribune
On January 1st, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation of Emancipation abolishing slavery in this country. 10/21/16

The states of the Union where the institution existed, in time followed the great proclamation by the enactment of status annulling within their several borders; and the national government by the enactment of the 13th Amendment to the Federal Constitution finally put the power into Federal agencies to prevent its recurrence on American soil. For many years after the close of the Civil war peonage was practiced in the South, which has never become thoroughly reconciled to the laws prescribing equality of citizenship.

This fact is seen in the widespread efforts to defeat the great purposes of the War Amendment, by the enactment of laws making the disfranchisement of the race a practical reality: by provisions for the separation of colored passengers from all other racial elements on common carriers by proscriptive legislation for residential segregation. The lynching of thousands of colored men and even women charged with offenses never proven in the courts of justice, has become almost a national disease. These social disorders are the aftermath of slavery, and we appeal to all fair minded men and women, to the enlightened moral forces of the country, to unite in a nation-wide effort to correct these abuses to the end that justice may prevail in all sections of our Republic.

The great progress of the colored race since the day of their liberation from bondage has been made in the face of stupendous difficulties—in the face of hate and prejudice, proscription and injustice, and is all the more remarkable because of the powerful influence exerted by these evil agencies. The race has greatly multiplied in numbers, and in usefulness. It has

reduced its illiteracy to a very low percentage. It has multiplied its wealth in lands. In religion, education and industrial movements, it has become an important factor in the national life with ever increasing efficiency. Wherever the door of opportunity has been opened to them, colored Americans have demonstrated their ability to meet the most exacting requirements of our civilization.

The colored people have made valuable contributions to science, invention, art, and literature, and their achievements in our national wars have maintained at a high level the best military traditions of this nation.

We desire to express to the friends of liberty and justice for all men throughout this broad land, our grateful appreciation for every service of any character which they have rendered in the past.

We seek nothing but justice, and that the equality of rights and that equal opportunity which are denied to none of the other groups in this country, because of race.

We denounce the segregation of colored employees in the civil service of the Federal government as un-American, unjust, a wicked, shameful and disgraceful abuse of power.

We denounce the spirit of those so-called representatives of the people in the halls of Congress, who are constantly seeking to decitizenize the colored race by the introductory of reactionary legislations which belongs to a past age, and which the great body of American people have outgrown.

We call upon the leaders of our race in every section of our country to unselfishly guide the people through the difficulties by which they are beset, and to organize them locally and nationally to resist and combat denial of civil and political rights and especially the policy of separation from fellow Americans of every race in the public life, opposing segregation, the perpetrator of race prejudice.

Those who have wisdom let their counsel be heard. Those who have wealth, let them assist materially where the need is great. Those who have courage, let them stand and contend for justice.

Signed by Maurice W. Spencer, Del.; Rev. J. H. Eason, Penn.; Wm. Monroe Trotter, Mass.; J. H. Murphy, Md.;

Rev. R. C. Ransom, N. J.; Mrs. Robt. Goodins, Mich.; E. W. Poyell, Cal.; Rev. Byron Gunner, N. Y.; Rev. B. F. Sydes, R. I.; E. D. Willison, N. C.; Mrs. S. L. Adams, Ill.; Rev. S. L. Corrothers, D. C.; J. L. Peaker, Penn.; Rev. W. H. Powell, Va.

HERALD

Washington, D. C.

'JIM CROW' LEGISLATION DENOUNCED BY NEGROES

Citizenship Rights Congress Issues
Address to Nation.

The National Colored Citizenship Rights Congress closed a two-days' session here last night with the adoption of an address to the country. Lynching, "Jim" Crowism, segregation and race proscription were denounced by the hundred or more delegates from all sections of the country. The congress was held under a call issued by the National Equal Rights League, which will hold its ninth annual meeting here tomorrow.

The congress urged extensive organization of the colored people to resist discriminations based on color. It approved the work of the National Equal Rights League along this line.

The address says in part:

"For many years after the close of the civil war peonage was practiced in the South, which has never become thoroughly reconciled to equality of citizenship. Separation of colored passengers from all other racial elements on common carriers, proscriptive legislation, residential segregation, lynching of thousands of colored men and even women, charged with offences never proven in the courts of justice, has become almost a national disease.

"The race has greatly multiplied in numbers and in usefulness. It has reduced its illiteracy to a very low percentage. Wherever the door of opportunity has been opened it has demonstrated its ability to meet the most exacting requirements of our civilization. We seek nothing but justice and that equality of rights and that equal opportunity which are denied to none of the other groups in this country.

"We denounce the segregation of colored employes in the Civil Service of the Federal government as un-American unjust and wicked, shameful and disgraceful abuse of power.

"We denounce the spirit of those so-called representatives of the people in the halls of Congress, who are constantly seeking to de-citizenize the race by the introduction of reactionary legislation which belongs to the past age and which the great body of American people have outgrown."

Centenary of the birth of Frederick Douglass, orator and reformer, was celebrated at the twentieth annual meeting of the American Negro Academy, Tuesday and Wednesday in the Twelfth Street branch of the Y. M. C. A. Judge Terrell was the prin-

ipal speaker. He spoke on "Frederick Douglass as an orator." Tuesday morning, after a business meeting, H. Grimke, president, spoke on Douglass as an Anti-Slavery Agitator. "The Anti-Slavery Movement prior to the Advent of Douglass," was the subject of an address by Carter G. Woodson on Tuesday evening, followed by an address by John E. Bruce, Douglass as Editor and Newspaper Contributor. The Wednesday morning session was given over to unfinished business, and in the evening Jelly Miller spoke on "Douglass from 1865 to 1895." The session closed Wednesday evening. T. Thomas Fortune and Thomas B. Patterson were among the visitors.

Dr. John Van Schaick, president of the Board Education, called an important conference of leading white and colored men and women, for the purpose of considering the advisability of organizing a local branch of the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes.

ADJUSTMENT OF NEGRO SCHOOLS

Object of National Conference
to Be Held Here Thursday and Friday.

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Many of the Most Important
Colored Colleges in Country
Represented.

The Association of Colleges for Negro Youth will hold its fourth annual session in Knoxville Thursday and Friday. Representatives from all leading colleges over the United States will be present. This will not be a public meeting, but a conference to adjust standards and decide on accredited preparatory schools.

Among institutions expected to be represented at the conference are:

Atlanta university, Atlanta.
Howard university, Washington, D. C.

Knoxville college, Knoxville.
Morehouse college, Atlanta.
Shaw university, Raleigh.
Talladega college, Talladega, Ala.
Virginia Union university, Richmond

Wilberforce university, Zenia, Ohio.
Fisk university, Nashville.
Benedict college, Columbia, S. C.
Roger Williams university, Nashville.
Philander Smith college, Little Rock.
Tuskegee institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
Meharry Medical college.
American Baptist Mission society.
International Y. M. C. A., and others.

The conference will be called to order Thursday morning at 10 o'clock with roll call. Subsequently there will be taken up the question of athletics and physical education in the curriculum. This topic, as all the others, will be generally discussed by the representatives.

Other topics to be considered during the conference will be co-operation in securing uniform standards among the public schools, preparation of teachers for high schools and rural schools, religious training on the part of the college curriculum, employment of local accountants instead of those from elsewhere, and the problem of those who go north to work in the summer months and get out of harmony with their community. Then there will be, of course, a list of schools and colleges which have made application to be recognized by the association as "standard" and must be passed on. Reports and election of officers will be the last thing on the program.

The report of the committee appointed to investigate the so-called combination courses between college and professional schools will also be of interest. This committee was named at the last meeting of the association held in Atlanta. Important business was transacted at this last meeting. Foreign languages as a requirement for college entrance were also considered, the point being made that the negro public high schools have little or no power to introduce either Greek or Latin, and in many cases to introduce any foreign language. The discussion of uniformity in the exchange of records between the secondary schools and colleges in the association resulted in the adoption of a blank form to be used by the students applying for college entrance. The association at its last meeting also voted that the granting of one year of special pre-medical studies to students of freshman or equivalent classification be regarded with disfavor, since the students of only freshman rank are hardly capable of taking advanced college courses in the natural sciences.

All sessions this year will be at the Knoxville college. Three sessions will be held each day: 10 to 12 a. m.; to 4:30 p. m., and 7 to 9 p. m. The conference will be presided over by Prof. E. C. Silsby, of Talladega college, Talladega, Ala., who is president of the association. The other officers are Vice-president, Dr. R. W. McGranahan, president of Knoxville college, secretary-treasurer, Prof. George F. Haynes, of Fisk university, Nashville.

EVENING.

Chicago,

Garvey, president of the Universal Improvement association, will speak Thursday night at the Ebenezer Baptist church, West Thirty-fifth and South Dearborn streets, on "The negroes of the West Indies after seventy-eight years of emancipation."

TRIBUNE

Providence, R. I.

Providence Colored Man Heads New Congress

Marion F. Sydes of Rhode Island was yesterday elected President of the National Colored Citizenship Rights Congress, which was held under the auspices of the National Equal Rights League in Washington, D. C. The congress adopted resolutions condemning the segregation of negro employes in the civil service as "Un-American, unjust, wicked, shameful and disgraceful."